Mr. Atul Sinha, Minister (Agriculture), Embassy of India, Rome

Mr. Butshikan Singh, Dy. Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Rome

Ms. Sujata Mehta, Director(S), PMO

Dr. Visinubhotla G.R. Shastry, Personal Physician to PM

Mr. Mahendra Jain, Private Secretary to PM.

Disparties in the allocation of Kerosene among States

2474. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the wide disparties in respect of quantum of allocation of kerosene amongst various State Governments/UTs.;

(b) the reasons for certain States getting less amount of kerosene from the national average;

(c) whether Government are aware of the diversion of a large amount of kerosene by the distributors; and

(d) the action taken against such distributors against whom complaints have been received?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kerosene is allocated to States/UTs. on the basis of past demand, offtake trends and relative need. Only 60% of the required quantity of kerosene is indigenously produced. The balance is imported. It is not possible to meet full demands of States/UTs on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved therein. However, during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 3% increase was given over and above the allocation in the previous years for the country as a whole. In order to reduce the disparity in its availability among States/UTs, additional quantities were allocated to States/UTs having less per capita consumption.

(c) and (d) in order to check diversion and black-marketing of kerosene, steps such as furfural doping of kerosene, blue dyeing of kerosene, sample testing by mobile laboratories and surprise inspections by field officers of Oil Companies and State authorities are undertaken. Action is taken against the erring dealers under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. The Central Government has requested the State Governments to rationalise the system of retail distribution to identify points of diversion and to take steps to plug the loopholes to prevent black-marketing of kerosene, so that it reaches the targeted groups in time and in desired quantities and at prescribed prices.

Acqusistion of Land for setting up Steel Plants in Orissa

2475. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of different public and private sector companies which acquired land in Orissa to set up steel plants;

(b) the total land acquired by those companies at different places of the State;

(c) the progress made in the establishment of those steel plants; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The informaiton is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Filling up backlog vacancies reserved for Backward Communities

2476. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST employment is reviewed every year and backlog